

ENERGY TIDBITS

November 2004

Wind Energy Production Tax Credit has been reinstated through 2005 as part of a major federal tax package extending a number of individual and business tax provisions. The PTC provides a 1.5 cent/kWh tax credit (adjusted annually for inflation) for electricity generated with wind turbines. The PTC, which had expired December 31, 2003, will be extended retroactively from that date to December 31, 2005. The delay in extending the PTC came following a banner year for the U.S. wind industry, in which it installed a near-record 1,687 MW of generating capacity - enough to serve nearly half a million average American homes. This year, a sharp drop in new installations is expected due to the absence of the incentive for 9 months.

New Michigan Wind Maps can be viewed at the Energy Office web site at www.michigan.gov/eorenew. Four wind speed maps show the predicted mean wind speed at heights of 30 meters, 50 meters, 70 meters, and 100 meters. A typical tower height for large utility-scale wind turbines is 70 meters. A typical height for small turbines is 30 meters, which is consistent with on-farm or residential use. There is also a 50 meter wind power map which takes into account the density of the air.

MPSC Low-Income and Energy Efficiency Fund is requesting pre-proposals for \$6 million in grants to promote energy efficiency for all customer classes. They may also be used for renewable and other advanced energy technologies. Deadline for pre-proposals is November 19. Information is available at www.michigan.gov/mpsc.

Taubman Student Services Center at Lawrence Tech will feature many innovative green features. Water runoff will be managed through vegetation planted on the 13,000 sq.ft. roof and about 80 geothermal wells drilled 300 feet deep will aid cooling and heating. The University hopes the building will qualify to be a LEED green building.

Hydrogen Power Park in Southfield was dedicated on October 19. DTE Energy has partnered with the U.S. Department of Energy, the Energy Office, and the city of Southfield to build and operate the \$3 million pilot project that will create hydrogen gas from tap water and use that gas in fuel cells and fuel cell-powered vehicles. The hydrogen will be produced using electricity from a combination of grid power and on-site solar photovoltaic cells.

McKenzie Bay International will perform a wind resource evaluation for a 200 kW rooftop wind turbine on a 22-story condominium complex in downtown Toronto. The WindStor system will provide fixed power rates using a DERMOND turbine and battery storage. It is the 8th site where wind resources will be evaluated for the system, including Las Vegas, Middletown, PA, & 5 Michigan sites including Dearborn, Flint and Detroit.

High Performance School Design Online Training for architects and engineers is available at <http://www.hpschooldesigntraining.com/nyserda/home.jsp>

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Net Metering consensus was announced by MPSC Chair J. Peter Lark at the GLREA alternative energy conference in Traverse City. Renewable energy companies, utilities, environmentalists and state agencies recently reached a consensus and will soon forward their proposal to the MPSC.

Super Charged Energy Saturday will held on November 20 at the Impression 5 Science Museum in Lansing. There will be all sorts of energetic hands-on activities for kids to try! Admission is FREE if you bring a toy to donate to the Toys for Tots Foundation. <http://www.impression5.org/whatsnew.htm>

4,900 Jobs would be created in Michigan and consumers in the state would save \$1.7 billion in lower utility costs via a green power standard, according to a study by the Union of Concerned Scientists. A national standard to require 20% of all power to come from renewables by 2020 would allow green power to create 2.3 times more jobs than generating electricity from new natural gas and coal power plants.

Choosing & Optimizing Energy Efficient Windows can be found at www.michigan.gov/documents/EO_09-04a_104653_7.pdf

Bank of America & Durst Organization have broken ground for the first high-rise office building that will earn a Platinum LEED rating from the U.S. Green Building Council, in part by cutting its energy use in half. The building will feature high ceilings and floor-to-ceiling windows to allow maximum daylighting. To avoid unwanted heat gain, the windows will combine double-wall technology and translucent insulating glass. The natural daylighting will be combined with daylight dimming and LED lights, and a planted "green roof" will help reduce the urban heat island effect. The new tower will include an onsite 4.6 MW cogeneration plant and a thermal storage system. Each floor will have its own air-handling unit to provide cool air via an under-floor displacement system, and carbon dioxide monitors will automatically introduce more fresh air when necessary. When completed in 2008, the 2.1-million-sq.ft., 52-story tower will serve as Bank of America's New York headquarters. See http://www.durst.org/i_bpl_news.asp.



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or e-mail jhsarve@michigan.gov

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